

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATIONAttorney Docket No: **61404-1090**

As the below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

Our residences, post office addresses and citizenships are as stated below next to our names.

We believe we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **STORAGE VESSELS AND RELATED CLOSURE METHODS**, the specification of which:

- ☒ is attached hereto.
☐ was filed on _____ as Application Serial No. _____.
☐ was filed on _____ under U.S. Express Mail No. _____.
☐ is set forth in PCT International Application No. _____;
filed on _____ and as amended Under PCT Article 19 on _____ (if any).

I/we hereby state that I/we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I/we hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of any United States provisional patent application, foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any United States provisional patent application, foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the above-identified application on which priority is claimed: **U.S. Provisional Application entitled "Vessels Using Compression Linkages"; Serial No. 60/175,444; Filed January 11, 2000**

I/we hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States patent application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I/we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56 which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: **NOT APPLICABLE**.

I/we hereby appoint the following attorneys/agents to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: **George M. Thomas, Reg. No. 22,260; James W. Kayden, Reg. No. 31,532; Scott A. Horstemeyer, Reg. No. 34,183; Stephen R. Risley, Reg. No. 35,659; Jeffrey R. Kuester, Reg. No. 34,367; Daniel J. Santos, Reg. No. 40,158; Daniel R. McClure, Reg. No. 38,962; Robert E. Stachler II, Reg. No. 36,934; David P. Kelley, Reg. No. 17,420; Michael J. Tempel, Reg. No. 41,344; David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345; Jon E. Holland, Reg. No. 41,077; Dan R. Gresham, Reg. No. 41,805; J. Scott Culpepper, Reg. No. 41,692; M. Paul Qualey, Reg. No. 43,024; Robert P. Biddle, Reg. No. 35,826; Robert A. Blaha, Reg. No. 43,502; Jennifer M. Gruber, Reg. No. 42,601; Raymond W. Armentrout, Reg. No. 45,866**

Please address all telephone calls, in the first instance, to **M. Paul Qualey, Jr.** at telephone number: **(770) 933-9500**.

Address all correspondence to:

**M. Paul Qualey, Jr.
THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER
& RISLEY, L.L.P.
100 Galleria Parkway, N.W., Suite 1750
Atlanta, Georgia 30339-5948**

Docket No. 61404-1090

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statement and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Inventor's Signature: Charles W. Pennington Date: 12/21/00

Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: Charles W. Pennington
Residence: 110 Old Chartwell Drive, Alpharetta, GA 30022 Citizenship: U.S.A.
Post Office Address: 110 Old Chartwell Drive
Alpharetta, GA 30022

Inventor's Signature: [Signature] Date: 12/21/00

Full Name of First or Sole Inventor: George C. Carver
Residence: 7185 Palisades Point, Suwanee, GA 30024 Citizenship: U.S.A.
Post Office Address: 7185 Palisades Point
Suwanee, GA 30024

002221-954342

PATENT

Attorney's Docket No. 61404-1090

Applicant or Patentee: Charles W. Pennington and George C. Carver

Serial or Patent No.: To Be Assigned

Filed or Issued: Herewith

For: **STORAGE VESSELS AND RELATED CLOSURE METHODS****VERIFIED STATEMENT (DECLARATION) CLAIMING SMALL ENTITY
STATUS (37 C.F.R. §1.9(f) AND 1.27(c)) - SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN**

I hereby declare that I am

- ☐ the owner of the small business concern identified below:
☒ an official of the small business concern empowered to act on behalf of the concerned identified below:

NAME OF CONCERN: NAC International, Inc.ADDRESS OF CONCERN: 655 Engineering Drive, Norcross, Georgia 30092

I hereby declare that the above-identified small business concern qualifies as a small business concern as defined in 13 CFR 121.3-18, and reproduced in 37 CFR 1.9(d), for purposes of paying reduced fees under Section 41(a) and (b) of Title 35, United States Code, in that the number of employees of the concern, including those of its affiliates, does not exceed 500 persons. For purposes of this statement, (1) the number of employees of the business concern is the average over the previous fiscal year of the concern of the persons employed on a full-time, part-time or temporary basis during each of the pay periods of the fiscal year, and (2) concerns are affiliates of each other when either, directly or indirectly, one concern controls or has the power to control the other, or a third-party or parties controls or has the power to control both.

I hereby declare that rights under contract or law have been conveyed, to and remain with the small business concern identified above with regard to the invention, entitled:

STORAGE VESSELS AND RELATED CLOSURE METHODSby inventor(s): Charles W. Pennington and George C. Carver

described in

- ☒ the specification filed herewith.
☐ application serial no. _____, filed _____.
☐ patent no. _____, issued _____.

If the rights held by the above-identified small business concern are not exclusive, each individual, concern or organization having rights in the invention is listed below* and no rights to the invention are held by any person, other than the inventor, who would not qualify as an independent inventor under 37 CFR 1.9(c) if that person made the invention, or by any concern which would not qualify as a small business concern under 37 CFR 1.9(d) or a nonprofit organization under 37 CFR 1.9(e).

*NOTE: Separate verified statements are required from each named person, concern or organization having rights in the invention overlying to their status as small entities (37 CFR 1.27).

05746156-122200

